

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01 IO-10 L-03 /077 W

----- 014013

P R 251015Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6820

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABALNCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

S E C R E T RABAT 5170

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: COMMENTS OF MOROCCAN MINISTER

REF: RABAT 5169

1. ON OCT 23 I ACCOMPANIED ASST SECY ATHERTON ON COURTESY CALL ON GOM MINISTER OF COOPERATION MOHAMMED BENHIMA. GENHIMA IS ONE OF MOST SENIOR MINISTERS AND HAS SERVED AS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER RECENTLY DURING LARAKI'S ABSENCES.

2. BENHIMA CHOSE TO TALK AS THOUGH HE WERE ACTING

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FONMIN. HE SAID IT WAS PROBABLE THAT MOROCCO

WOULD MAKE RAPID PROGRESS IN WORKING OUT UNDERSTANDING WITH SPAIN. EVEN SO, HE SAID, MARCH WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED, BUT IT COULD POSSIBLY BE REDUCED TO "SYMBOLIC" AFFAIR INVOLVING PERHAPS 25 PEOPLE FROM EACH MOROCCAN PROVINCE. HE IMPLIED THAT THE REST OF THE ASSEMBLED MARCHERS WOULD STAY ON THE MOROCCAN SIDE OF THE BORDER AND REJOICE THERE.

3. COMMENT: BENHIMA ALSO TOLD US THAT DECISION FOR MARCH WAS MADE IN EARLY OCTOBER AND KNOWN ONLY TO A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE (OF WHOM HE WAS ONE) WHO TOOK SPECIAL OATH OF SECRECY. IT MAY BE SURMISED THEREFORE THAT HE MADE ABOVE REMARKS WITH CONSIDERABLE AUTHORITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT05170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750372-0358
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751018/aaaaapor.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RABAT 5169
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA: COMMENTS OF MOROCCAN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS, (BENHIMA, MOHAMMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006